

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

September

2021

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Daily Eastern News: September 08, 2021

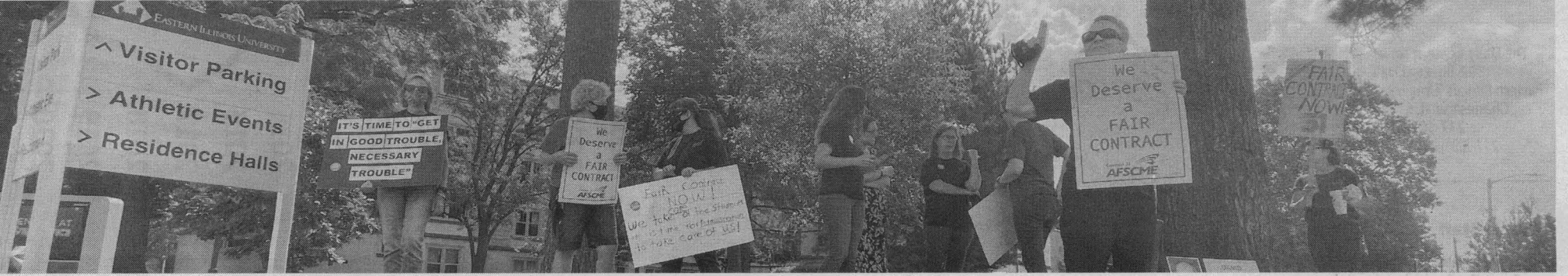
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Multiple members of the union American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 981 protest on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Fourth Street on Move-In Day, Aug. 19.

AFSCME reaches agreement, gets new contract

By Corryn Brock
Editor-in-Chief | @corryn_brock

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 981, the union representing Eastern's building service workers, cooks, kitchen laborers, clerical workers and technical workers reached an agreement with Eastern Sept. 2.

The agreement was reached for 187 employees, the 77 in the clerical subgroup of the union and the 110 in the service worker subgroup of the union.

AFSCME has ratified the tentative agreements that will now be brought to the Board of Trustees during their meeting Friday afternoon.

Currently, it is recommended that the board approve the items.

Bargaining for service workers began on July 1, 2020 and bargaining for clerical workers began June 23, 2020.

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service was utilized to reach an agreement for both subgroups of the union.

The FMCS is an agency whose mission is to "preserve and promote labor-management peace

and cooperation," according to its website.

It also "helps build better relationships through joint problem-solving and constructive responses to inevitable conflict. In turn, this improves the ability of organizations to create value for customers, shareholders and employees alike, and substantially benefits the national economy. The Agency concentrates its efforts on assisting employers and employees in coping with the demands of a rapidly changing workplace," according to the website.

The clerical contract will be effective July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023 and the service contract will be effective from Sept. 15, 2020 to Sept. 14,

2023.

Both groups will receive a retroactive 1.5 percent increase, a 1.25 percent increase in 2021 and a 1.25 percent increase in 2022.

Each employee will also receive a \$150 lump sum payment.

Overall, the cost of the raises to the university will be \$300,628.

Since the union began bargaining, they spent a combined 834 days seeking an agreement.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at deneic@gmail.com.

City Council appropriates \$310K in MFT funds

By Luke Taylor
News Editor | @DEN_news

Charleston City Council declared a state of emergency for the city on Tuesday night in response to increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections in Coles County.

The state of emergency was active for most of 2020 for the same reason.

Mayor Brandon Combs said he was in contact with the Governor's office and the Coles County Health Department for guidance on what steps to take.

"The point of this resolution is not for any mandating or overstepping any powers that myself as mayor have or ourselves as city council members have. This is just simply put in place in case something does happen and we need to do certain things," Combs said.

In the past, the state of emergency was mostly used to quickly approve street closures to allow outside seating for local restaurants and other similar matters of business that would be more difficult under normal city operations.

City council also approved the appropriation of \$310,000 in Motor Fuel Tax funds for street and highway maintenance.

They voted on two resolutions for appropriating the funds: one for \$130,000 in MFT funds from FY 2014/FY2015 and another for \$180,000 in MFT funds from FY 2016/2017.

CITY COUNCIL, page 2

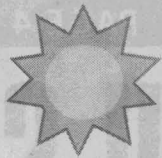
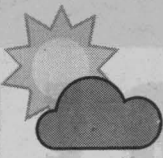
Eastern's top paid employees in 2020

\$357,701	David Glassman
\$193,827.16	Jay Gatrell
\$179,000	Austin Cheney
\$178,500	Sean Reeder
\$178,476	Peter Liu
\$176,292	Melody Wollan
\$175,000	Ken Wetstein
\$174,999.96	Joeseph Baumgart
\$171,408	John Willems
\$166,276.30	Ryan Hendrickson

SALARIES, page 2

Local weather

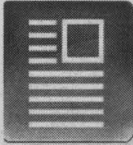
WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

Sunny
High: 79°
Low: 54°Mostly Sunny
High: 79°
Low: 55°

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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Employment

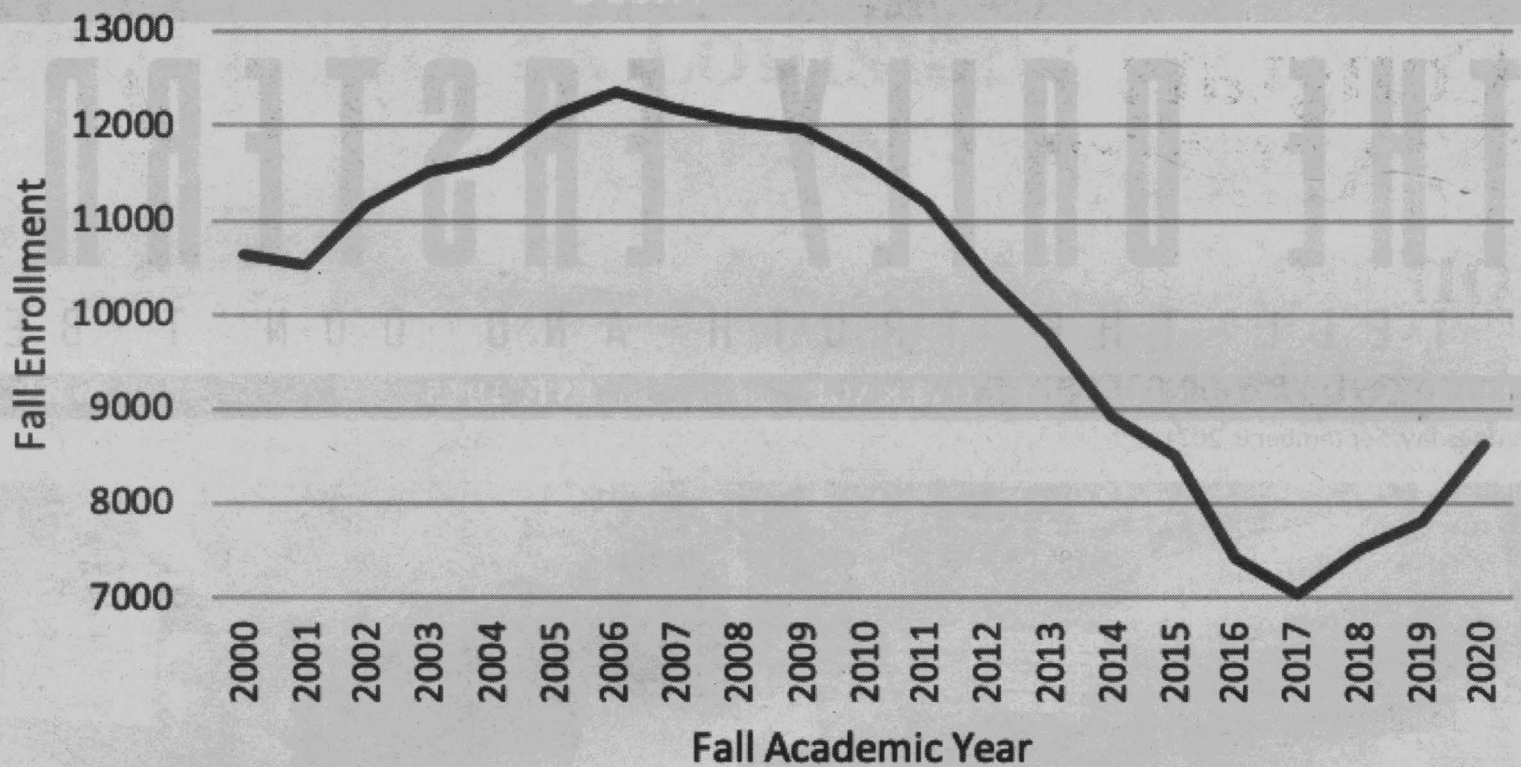
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20 Year History of Eastern Fall Enrollment



A graph shows the 20-year history of Eastern's Fall enrollment, including the slow then rapid decline followed by a recent uptick in students after Eastern began offering dual credit course for high school students.

BY THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

History of Eastern's Fall enrollment

By Corryn Brock
Editor-in-Chief

Eastern's Census Day Fall 2021 semester enrollment numbers are expected to be released this week following a three-year uptick in enrollment.

However, this increase in enrollment did not come without a number of decreases in the past 20 years.

The highest point for enrollment in the last 20 years was in 2006

when Eastern had 12,349 students attending the university. From then on there was a steady decrease in enrollment until the Fall 2018 semester when Eastern began offering high school dual enrollment.

In 2017, Eastern had a total of 7,030 student enrolled at the university, with the total number of undergraduates being 5,568 of that population.

The next year in 2018, Eastern saw 7,526 total students.

Of those students, 4,738 students were undergraduate students and 1,274 were high school students enrolled in dual credit courses through Eastern.

In 2019, the number of undergraduate students dropped once again with undergraduates making up 4,649 students of the total 7,806 students.

A total of 1,580 students were high school students enrolled in dual credit courses.

In 2020, the university had 8,626 enrolled in courses with Eastern.

Of the total student body, 4,471 students were undergraduate students and 2,228 were high school students enrolled in dual credit courses.

The Tenth Day Enrollment Numbers for Fall 2021 are expected to be released Wednesday or Thursday.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at deneic@gmail.com.

» SALARIES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Money makes the world go 'round, even at Eastern.

National Payroll Week, the second week in September, is designated to encourage people to examine their paychecks and appreciate payroll employees.

While student employees are paid hourly, most other Eastern employees receive an annual salary.

The 10 highest paid employees at Eastern are all members of administration, according to the Illinois

Board of Higher Education's records from 2020.

At the very top of the list is University President David M. Glassman, who made \$325,412 in base salary with additional compensation of \$32,289.

Next is Jay Gattrell, university provost and vice president of academic affairs, was the second highest with an annual salary of \$193,827.16.

Third on the list is Sean Reeder, vice president of business affairs, who made \$178,500.

Peter Liu, the interim chair of the school of technology, is fourth.

His base salary was \$174,276, with additional compensation of \$4,200.

Fifth is Austin Cheney, dean of the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences, made \$176,000 with additional compensation of \$3,000.

Melody Wollan, associate dean of the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology, is a close sixth with a base salary of \$176,292.

The vice president of university advancement, Kenneth Werstein made a base salary of \$175,000.

Joseph Baumgart, the medi-

cal director of health services, followed very closely with his salary of \$174,999.96.

Ninth on the list is John Williams, the interim department chair of the school of business, who made a base salary of \$167,208 with additional compensation of \$4,200.

The final person in the top 10 list is Ryan Hendrickson, the dean of the graduate school and vice provost of sponsored research, who made \$166,276.30.

Luke Taylor can be reached at 581-2812 or at egtaylor@eiu.edu.

» CITY COUNCIL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A memorandum from Charleston Director of Public Works Curt Buescher explained the reasoning behind the appropriation of funds:

"Each year the City estimates the amount of MFT funds that will be used to maintain our streets and alleys, and then obligates that amount via a resolution as directed by the IDOT procedures. At the end of the fiscal year, we complete a statement of actual expenses for that year. If the actual expense exceeds the estimated expense, a supplemental resolution obligating the shortfall is submitted to IDOT.

Attached is a resolution obligating \$180,000 of MFT funds for FY 17 street maintenance and construction work. According to a recent audit by IDOT, we had not submitted this supplemental resolution for FY 17.

No additional funds are being spent, we are simply passing the necessary resolution to satisfy IDOT's require-

ments.

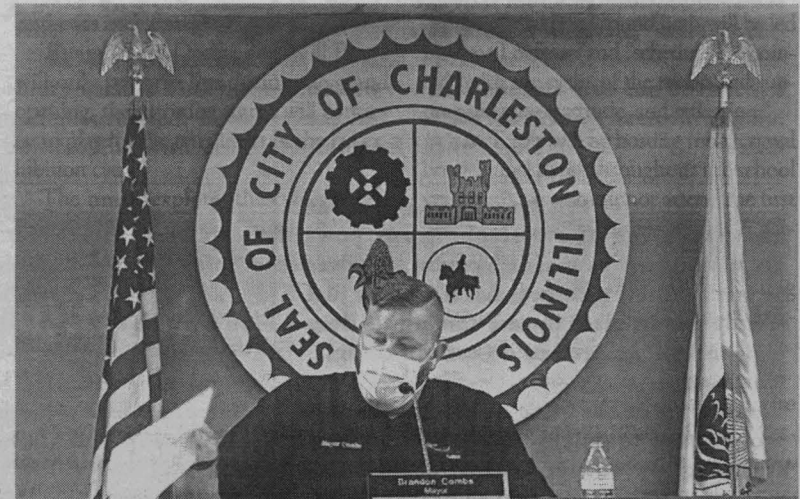
Please approve this supplemental resolution so we may stay in compliance with the IDOT policies."

The council approved street closures for the upcoming Charleston High School Homecoming Parade, which will be on Sept. 30 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The closures will begin at Smith Drive, continue north to Fifteenth Street then north to Harrison Avenue; west on Harrison Avenue to Seventh Street; then north on Seventh Street to Monroe Avenue; then west on Monroe Avenue to Sixth Street; south on Sixth Street to Harrison Avenue; then east on Harrison Avenue to Fifteenth Street. The parade will conclude as it goes south on Fifteenth Street back to the beginning point on Smith Drive.

Mayor Brandon Combs named Sept. 17 through Sept. 23 as Constitution Week 2021 to celebrate the drafting of the Constitution of the United States.

According to the proclamation, citizens are asked to "reaffirm the ideals



ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021 the Mayor of Charleston, Brandon Combs conducts the City Council Meeting. During this meeting, the council voted on appropriating two different funds; \$130,000 from the Motor Fuel Tax funds from FY 2014/FY2015 and \$180,000 from MFT funds from FY 2016/FY 2017.

the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained."

No members of the public addressed the council after Tuesday's meeting.

Luke Taylor can be reached at 581-2812 or at egtaylor@eiu.edu.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Congrats to AFSCME on new contract

After over 400 days of negotiating with Eastern's administration, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local #981 has an updated contract.

The union members will receive a four percent raise over the course of a three year contract, in total costing Eastern \$300,628 over those three years.

It took hours of negotiations and help from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for Eastern's administration to start paying the union members even a bit more adequately; as happy as we are that an agreement has been made, this is disappointing behavior.

Eastern's advertising centers around valuing each student and our "All In" attitude.

We at the Daily Eastern News hope that our administration will start treating Eastern's employees in the same way- especially employees who do so much of the labor on campus.

Union members have also been important in keeping us safe on campus during the pandemic as they sanitized public spaces.

We appreciate them, and we hope that everyone else on campus does, too.

Nevertheless, we're happy for the AFSCME members! Over the last year, we have published quite a few editorials in support of their efforts, and it's exciting to see that they were successful.

Quote of the Day:

"The aim of life is to live, and to live means to be aware, joyously, drunkenly, serenely, divinely aware."

Henry Miller

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

Letters to the Editor

Those interested can inquire at opinions.DEN@gmail.com for all opinion questions, submissions and letters to the editor. Please allow a week for us to publish letters to the editor.

The Editor reserves the right to not publish letters. Letters that are 250 words or less will be prioritized, but longer ones will be considered by the editorial board. Please include your name and phone number to verify letters.

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BY NICK PAUL

Be brave, be bold, enjoy college

It is natural for human beings to socialize with each other daily.

I never realized how much of a people person I am until I moved into Eastern for the first time last year. I found myself trying to get to know as many people as possible around campus.

Of course, last year was completely different in terms of socialization.

People are given the freedom to roam around without a mask on, so long as they adhere to the precautions and safety measures in place.

My journey to finding more friends began in this Facebook group chat, "Class of 2024." For those who know what I am talking about, they know that everyone made it their mission to introduce themselves to others who are also incoming first-year students.

I have never seen so many people come together to form connections between each other, especially with the drawback of being online.

Not only that, but I surprised myself as well because I also introduced myself. As soon as "Class of 2024" was created, I plastered my face in front of hundreds of other people who have all experienced the chains and bonds exacerbated from CO-



Ethan Schobernd

VID-19.

The next thing I knew, I was making an Instagram group chat called "Thomas Hall Buds," and I recruited all my fellow Thomas Hall residents last year and made it my mission to know all of them.

As a high schooler, I was mainly a wall flower with a select few friends I would talk to in confidence. Now, I cannot walk around campus without finding a friendly face I recognize.

The minute I set foot into Eastern, I knew that I was going to change, and it was for the better.

Everyone tends to shock themselves with the amount of social capability they have when putting

in the work.

When in my dorm, I am very quiet, exclusive, and have limited interactions with my friends; however, the minute I walk outside, a switch flips and I am instantly bubblier and zeal when around others. Is this due to social anxiety?

Some might say, but I like to think that I am easily adaptable to any environment that is given to me.

It is okay to not have friends in your life if you wish to be independent. But I will say, I am thankful for all the friends that I have in my life. I have friends who care for me, watch my back, check-up on me, and know how to have a good time.

All you have to do is make a small step, and those steps can get bigger as you continue to pursue your goal. Just remember to be safe when talking to others because the coronavirus is still out there.

My mission for everyone is to be brave, bold, and trust that you can change your whole outlook in the blink of an eye.

Ethan Schobernd is a sophomore journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or ejshobernd@eiu.edu.

We need younger presidents

We are dissatisfied. Each president fails to meet our standards year after year. But why?

"They're values are outdated," people object. "They don't see things the same way we do." And their solution? Create an age limit on the presidency.

Initially, this might seem plausible. First, many of our candidates' values seem to not align with the popular opinions of the younger generation. "63% of US adults say the government has the responsibility to provide healthcare coverage for all," a Pew research poll from 2020 shows. Despite this, it has been rare to see many candidates focus on this topic.

Secondly, with old age comes a higher risk of issues with mental and physical health. Approximately 5 to 8 percent of people will suffer from dementia by age 65 and many others will suffer from heart disease. And though possibly unsubstantiated, many allegations are made accusing Trump, Biden, and formerly running Hillary Clinton of mental decline and physical.

With this in mind, we can see why people might be skeptical of electing older candidates. Their values are outdated, and their health is deteriorating. So, many argue, let's prevent these people from running by making an age cap.



Ian Palacios

I believe we have reasons to doubt this position. Ultimately, a candidate's age is irrelevant in determining one's capacity to perform well in office.

So, why might we think this?

First, it isn't so clear whether the values of older candidates are outdated in the first place. We can often come under the impression that what our group believes is the correct group and that those who disagree with us are simply wrong.

But we aren't the only citizens. Whether or not the values that preceded us are correct is irrelevant. We live in a democracy, and those who hold different values than us have an equal say to vote. Since many of the U.S. citizens have the same values of the running candidates, it isn't so clear how "outdated"

our candidates' values really are.

Second, even if a candidate's values are outdated or if their health is poor, the responsibility is on the voters, not the government. If people with poor health or bad values are getting elected, U.S. citizens need to elect better candidates, not arbitrarily deny someone because of their age.

Third, even if a candidate's values are outdated or if their health is poor, it isn't a result purely of their age. It's a result of their own idiosyncratic beliefs and health.

Consider for example, Bernie Sanders who would have been 78 if elected in the 2020 election. His values strongly correlate with those of young adults, despite his age.

Similarly, we can imagine a candidate running with great health and progressive values.

What this shows is that age is not what is important.

What is important is a candidate's health and values specific to them.

To deny a citizen the right to vote purely due to age is discriminatory and would cause more problems than it would fix.

Ian Palacios is a junior english and philosophy major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or impalacios@eiu.edu.

Ayap far from home as Louisiana recovers

By Lauren Frick
Contributing Writer | @DEN_Sports

Thousands of Louisianans spent the night of August 29 hoping their preparations were enough as Hurricane Ida made landfall— a situation Eastern Athletic Trainer Jehan Ayap knows all too well. Exactly 16 years prior, Ayap found herself at a teammate's house in Gonzales, Louisiana with these same hopes as Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc on the southeastern part of the state.



JEHAN AYAP

Now, being nearly 700 miles away from her parents and hometown of Hammond, Louisiana, all Ayap can do is watch as her community picks itself back up after Hurricane Ida's devastating blows.

Loss of life, flooding, structural damage, and a massive loss of power have all been left in the wake of Ida. As of Monday, nearly 486,000 homes and buildings remained without power in Louisiana, which has resulted in a shortage of fuel, lack of water pressure, and problems at water treatment plants.

Several oak trees surrounding Ayap's parents' house fell during the storm, all barely missing their home. Ayap realizes that if these trees would have fallen six inches one way or the other, the result could have been very different.

"You look at it and it's bad, but then you take another look and realize it could've been way worse," Ayap said.

Ayap felt grateful her parents safely outlasted the 16 hour storm, but a feeling of worry still remains with her a week after Hurricane Ida's landfall. Pictures of flooded streets, fallen power lines, and crumbling buildings have overtaken her social media, and all she can do is watch.

"Every day this week I've been glued to my phone and computer watching what's going on down

there," Ayap said. "Being so far away, you do feel helpless."

Despite not physically being in her hometown, Ayap is comforted by the multitude of social media posts detailing community members coming together. Neighbors giving out free hot meals and cases of water, and helping each other clean up debris overshadows the pictures of the damage on Ayap's feeds.

"When these types of storms come through, you really see a resilience in the community and you see people being neighborly," Ayap said.

The sense of community fostered over the past week is nothing new. Resiliency was key during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which resulted in over 1,800 deaths, thousands of people displaced from their homes, and \$108 billion in damage.

When Katrina hit in 2005, Ayap was a freshman on the soccer team at Southeastern Louisiana University in her hometown. Not even a week into classes and her first collegiate season, Ayap and her teammates were advised to evacuate campus.

At first, there was no convincing Ayap of leaving her family and hometown behind, but eventually her parents were able to reassure her they would be fine. Ayap and eight of her teammates packed a bag and headed west out of the path of Katrina, but she did not bring with her much fear about the hurricane.

Growing up in Louisiana, Ayap had been through many hurricane seasons, so she was not overly concerned before Katrina made landfall. Even while the storm was passing through, Ayap and her teammates were not consumed with worry; they were too busy with their own experiment.

To test just how strong the wind from Katrina was, the girls wrapped Ayap's entire body in plastic saran-wrap and took her outside. Their hypothesis was proven true when Ayap's whole body was knocked flat on the ground.

"We were kids going out there probably doing stuff that we



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE AYAP

A large fallen tree sits in Julie Ayap's backyard in Hammond, Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. Julie Ayap is the mother of Jehan Ayap, an athletic trainer at Eastern.

"You look at it and it's bad, but then you take another look and realize it could've been way worse."

-Jehan Ayap

shouldn't have done," Ayap said. "Even though it was this dire circumstance, we still tried to make it fun."

After about a week away, the team returned to campus, which had suffered aesthetic damages, but was overall structurally intact. Ayap and her teammates cleaned debris off their field and eventually determined they would be able to salvage the season.

Ayap was happy to be back to her daily student-athlete routine at school, but the struggles of those in the area who were not as fortunate still weighed on her. She recalled hearing the constant sound of helicopters heading towards New Orleans during practice.

"I'd go to practice then go home and watch the news to see people still evacuating and trying to get rescued," Ayap said.

This created a greater purpose for the team as they strived for

wins. Ayap said her team was privileged to be able to continue to play, so the least they could do was be an outlet for the community.

"At least for two hours, if they could come and watch this game, then maybe they could get a two hour break from having to clean out their flooded house," Ayap said.

Ayap's team also spent much of their free time in the community cleaning up debris wherever they could. She said the community had always done so much for them, so the decision to help was a no-brainer.

Ayap said that history will repeat itself now with Ida.

Clean-up efforts will be heavily fueled by the community, with an emphasis being placed on neighbors checking on one another.

Ayap's mother, Julie Ayap, felt happiest when she was finally able to check on her neighbors after

the storm. After being trapped at home for a few days due to trees blocking the main road, Julie Ayap was able to help her friends clean up their home, which had taken water for the first time in the 30 years they had lived there.

Like her daughter, Julie Ayap overwhelmingly feels a sense of gratitude for the safety of her family and friends, as well as the minimal damage to her home. Despite the negative situation, she still appreciates what may seem like even the smallest victories.

"All of the traffic lights are off, but everyone is being really courteous," Julie Ayap excitedly said to her daughter over the phone.

What Louisiana lacks in power, they have gained in better drivers on the road, according to Julie Ayap.

Lauren Frick can be reached at 581-2812 or lmfrick@eiu.edu.

Men's soccer team suffers 5-1 loss against NIU



ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern midfielder Nikola Salopek gets into position defensively against Northern Illinois Sept. 7 at Lakeside Field. Eastern lost the match 5-1.

By Adam Tumino
Sports Editor | @adam_tumino

The Eastern men's soccer team scored its first goal of the season Tuesday afternoon against Northern Illinois, but fell 5-1 to the Huskies.

The Panthers are now 0-3 on the young season, having previously lost to Xavier and Purdue Fort Wayne.

Northern improved to 3-1 with the win.

The Huskies jumped ahead early, scoring in just the 2nd minute when senior defender Anthony Markanich, on an assist from senior midfielder Adrian Corona, got one by Eastern goalkeeper Chad Smith.

Two more early goals put the Huskies up 3-0 within 12 minutes of the opening kickoff.

In the 10th minute, senior defender Nick Markanich joined his

brother in the scoring column, netting a goal on an assist from red-shirt junior forward Enrique Banuelos.

Just over a minute later, red-shirt senior midfielder Pepe Martinez got another ball behind Smith on another assist from Corona.

The Huskies were held scoreless by the Eastern defense until the 35th minute, when Nick Markanich scored again. This time he was assisted by Martinez.

But this time Eastern responded. Freshman forward Prince Okonny scored his first career goal in the 38th minute. It was the Panthers' first goal of the season after back-to-back 1-0 losses and a scoreless first half in a match against Milwaukee that was canceled at halftime due to severe weather in the area.

The score remained 4-1 into halftime and for much of the second half before Northern netted an

insurance goal.

In the 85th minute, sophomore midfielders Diego Maynez and Camilo Estrada teamed up with Maynez passing the ball to Estrada, who shot it low passed Smith, putting the Huskies up by the eventual final score of 5-1.

In the match, Eastern recorded four shots to the Huskies' 14. One of Eastern's shots was on goal while the Huskies had nine.

Smith made four saves in the match, while Northern goalkeepers Martin Sanchez and Parker Smith were not required to make a save.

After three scheduled home matches in a row, Eastern will now be on the road for its next two matches.

The Panthers travel to play Belarmine on Sept. 12 and Missouri State Sept. 15.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or ajtumino@eiu.edu.